

Appl. No. 10/662,109  
Response dated 08/17/05  
Reply to Restriction Requirement of 07/19/05

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (original) A modified, mesophase pitch-based carbon fiber comprising from about 0.01 percent to about 1.0 percent by weight of carbon nanomaterial reinforcements.
  
2. (original) The modified carbon fiber set forth in claim 1 comprising from about 0.1 percent to about 0.5 percent by weight of carbon nanomaterial reinforcements.
  
3. (original) The modified carbon fiber set forth in claim 1 wherein the carbon nanomaterial reinforcements comprise carbon nanotubes.
  
4. (original) The modified carbon fiber set forth in claim 3 wherein the carbon nanotubes comprise multi-wall carbon nanotubes.
  
5. (original) The modified carbon fiber set forth in claim 1 comprising decreased tensile modulus.

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6. (withdrawn) A method for making a modified, mesophase pitch-based carbon fiber comprising the steps of:
  - a. providing an anisotropic mesophase pitch;
  - b. heating the pitch to at least the softening temperature of the pitch;
  - c. dispersing carbon nanomaterials in the heated pitch in an amount ranging from about 0.01 percent to about 1.0 percent by weight;
  - d. heating the pitch to an extrusion temperature of about 20° to about 30°C above the softening point;
  - e. melt spinning a carbon nanomaterial-reinforced pitch fiber;
  - f. thermosetting the spun fiber; and
  - g. pyrolyzing the carbon nanomaterial-reinforced pitch fiber to form a carbon nanomaterial-reinforced pitch-based carbon fiber.
7. (withdrawn) The method set forth in claim 6 comprising dispersing carbon nanomaterials in the heated pitch in an amount ranging from about 0.1 percent to about 0.5 percent by weight.
8. (withdrawn) The method set forth in claim 6 wherein the carbon nanomaterials comprise carbon nanotubes.
9. (withdrawn) The method set forth in claim 8 wherein the carbon nanotubes comprise multi-wall carbon nanotubes.